

MENTORING SESSION #38

Name of Protégé _____
Name of Mentor _____
Date of Session _____

“Chaplain Supervisors should avoid entering into confidential communications with subordinates on their staff. When confidential communication is desired, staff members are encouraged to exercise such privileged communication with a chaplain outside their chain of command.”

AFI 52-101, 4.1.3

PROFESSIONAL:

Core area of focus: Ministry

Subject: Privileged Communication and Legal Issues Surrounding It

Bring to the session: - AFI 52-101, Section 4.1, Privileged Communication
- UCMJ, Military Rules of Evidence 503, Definition of Privileged Communication

1) Review and discuss AFI 52-101, Section 4.1, Privileged Communication and the Military Rules of Evidence, 503.

- a. Emphasize that privileged communication belongs to the counselee, not the chaplain.
- b. Discuss what happens if a chaplain breaks the privilege (e.g. personal integrity, legal issues, Chaplain Service credibility issues, etc.).
- c. Discuss how state laws vary in regards to privileged communication in cases such as child abuse.
- d. Discuss how to respond to if called to testify in a court case (e.g. consult JAG and MAJCOM/HC).
- e. Discuss the fact that subordinates do not have confidentiality in a supervisor-subordinate relationship.

2) Discuss the chaplain's endorsing agent's expectations and personal approaches.

3) Consider having a JAG officer attend a staff meeting to discuss this issue from a legal point of view.

PERSONAL:

What are your personal concerns in maintaining privileged communication?

NEXT SESSION DATE and TIME: